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Hawaiian Gazette

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1888.

THE SAMOAN QUESTION.

Light on a Dark Subject—Why, Great Britain Surrendered Her Influence.

The Fiji Times of Aug. 25th publishes a speech of Mr. W. A. McArthur, member of the British Parliament, to his constituents in Mevagissey, Cornwall. This gentleman had visited Australia and New Zealand last year, where he found the people much exercised about the developments in Samoa, and on his return he had put a long string of questions to the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, which were not answered for a long time, and Mr. McArthur is reported as to the answers as follows:

And the fact was this—that towards the end of 1888 or the beginning of 1887, when we were in trouble in Egypt, and it was supposed that our relations with some of the European Powers were not on such a good footing as they might have been, the English government absolutely resigned their rights in Samoa to the German government. They did this not only without informing the United States and the Australian colonies until months later, but absolutely without informing their own consul at Samoa. So that this unhappy man whose duty it was to carry out the views of the English government, and who protested against what he regarded as a violation of international law, found himself (when finally he got his information in September of last year) nine months "behind the fair," for the English government had agreed to the action of the Germans nine months before he got any instructions whatever. ("Shame!") The colonies of Australia and New Zealand had always looked upon it as an absolute necessity that English influence should be paramount in that part of the Pacific. And it should be. It was the English who had made it safe for any foreign nation to go into the Pacific at all. It was our ships and our missionaries who had partially civilized those islands, and made it possible for Europeans to engage in any trade with the natives. We were practically the only nation which had treated the natives with anything like fair play, and we therefore had a right to claim the domination of the Pacific, or at any rate, of that part of it. But here was the whole of this great inheritance—for it was a great inheritance (hear, hear)—handed over bodily by a Conservative Government at a time when we were engaged in squabbles in which the mass of Englishmen took no particular interest, simply to keep themselves square with those extraordinary European alliances into which Tory and sometimes Liberal Governments were continually dragging the country. (Hear, hear.) He regarded this a most monstrous case. Nothing could be urged in defense of the conduct of the Government. They had given up the natives of these islands to a rule which they detested; they had seen a king, whom they had vowed to protect, seized and transported to a distance of 7,000 miles without a word of protest. ("Shame!")—and in return they had absolutely nothing, because all they ever got was a promise that they should not be interfered with in Egypt, and the Egyptian campaign had gained nothing for England except the privilege of paying an enormous bill and leaving the country at the earliest possible moment. (Laughter and applause.) He hoped to have an opportunity of going into this question in Parliament the first day on which the House met after the recess, when the foreign estimates would come on for discussion; and he could promise them that he should have a great deal to say about this Samoan annexation, and on behalf of the king of this unhappy nation, who had as much right to our keeping faith with him as the proudest European sovereign. (Applause.)

In the earlier part of his speech Mr. McArthur, describing the change of last year in the Samoan situation, said "that the whole direction of Samoan affairs was now in the hands of Germany, and that in face of the fact that only twelve or thirteen months ago fifty-four out of the fifty-seven native chiefs petitioned England to annex the islands on the ground that they were afraid of the Germans, and protested against German annexation." When Mr. Sewall, American Consul in Samoa, passed through Honolulu two months ago, he strenuously denied that the British Government, any more than that of the United States, had ever surrendered exclusive control of Samoan affairs to Germany as was reported in American papers. This showed that the secret of the British backdown had not been out when he left Samoa, as until his departure he had been working in concert with the British Consul, both of them withholding recognition of the Tamasese government.

A New Barrister.

Mr. Gardner made his debut as counsel in the Supreme Court on Friday, when his name appears in the record of a Chambers hearing. Mr. Wilder is a graduate of the law department of the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), and a licensed member of the Supreme Court bar of that State. He was admitted to the Hawaiian bar on presentation of credentials and examination only a few days ago, and there are none in the community, probably, that do not heartily wish him a brilliant and useful career. He is a son of Hon. Wm. C. Wilder, of the House of Nobles.

The long sermon was effective. Bishop Taylor, of Africa, recently preached a sermon at Ocean Grove which occupied one hour and fifty-five minutes in delivery. When he closed the congregation raised \$5,000 for mission work.

SAILING OF THE AUSTRALIA.

Large Crowd and Much Music—A Delaying Episode.

There was the usual large crowd on the Oceanic wharf to see the steamer Australia off. Many esteemed residents were going away; also some strangers, who had tarried here long enough to make numbers of friends, or at least to excite a certain degree of interest in their welfare. There were lots of little incidents—big enough, however, to tickle the average crowd—while the band played the steamer off, as the saying is. The local custom of decorating departing friends with leis burdened some of the recipients apparently almost beyond their strength. Fidgety passengers who had to be going down and up the gangway until the last moment—dudes with awfully impressive eye-glass or other mark of distinction—a steamer passenger, whom it would not be libelous to call notorious, putting his cur off the ship—all helped to fill in the time. The chief incident, however, was one that delayed the vessel's departure three-quarters of an hour.

The majority decision of the Supreme Court, in the case of the two Chinese passengers brought on a former trip of the Australia, ordered their remandment to the custody of the Marshal. This order threw Marshal Soper back upon the order of the Chief Justice appealed from to the full Court, which was to remand the two Chinamen back to the custody of Captain Houdlette. The Marshal did so, but somehow or other, when the officers of the law sought for the men to see if they were on board, they could not be found. To sustain the majesty of the law a warrant was sworn out for Capt. Houdlette's arrest, which was served upon him a few moments before the advertised hour of sailing. "What's the matter?" was the query that buzzed through the crowd as the Captain, accompanied by Hon. W. G. Irwin, posted through the crowd and up town to give a bond in \$500 before Police Justice Dayton for his appearance in obedience to the warrant, that had been made returnable on the 15th of November. It was a quarter to 1 o'clock before the party returned to the deck, and the steamer swung out amid the usual interchange of farewell salutations between deck and dock.

The band was kept busy by Prof. Berger during all the delay, only taking a few seconds for breathing between each number. A number of native swimmers attended the steamer as she turned into the stream, to dive for coins that were thrown from the ship in liberal number. The mail by the Australia amounted to 4,082 letters and 981 papers—not bad for the third steamer mail to the Coast within five days.

THE RAMIE INDUSTRY.

Hope in a New Invention That Former Difficulties Will be Overcome.

The following item appears in the American Agriculturist for October, for which Mr. J. Emmelhut for us thanks. Mr. F. L. Winter, who has been interesting himself in the study of ramie, having had his attention called to the item, has shown our reporter a newspaper clipping containing similar information. He had already, some time ago, sent for fuller particulars of the French invention. The following is the extract from the Agriculturist:

Scientific and agricultural Paris has enjoyed a sensation in M. Vial's new process. This was submitted by the government to a committee of experts, whose report is awaited with great interest. Meanwhile a reliable witness of the experiments informs us that if the process succeeds as well on a large scale as it did on a small one, the ramie puzzle seems to be in a way of solution. The process, in essence, consists of the substitution of "a fatty substance," the inventor's secret, for the soda which has hitherto been used in decorticating the ramie fibre, to the great detriment of its strength and beauty. The process dispenses with retorts, high temperature and all elaborate appliances, and is said to be capable of decorticating a mass of 3,000 pounds in two or three hours, simply and cheaply. France is taking a special interest just now in this coming rival of "King Cotton" because of the adaptability of her possessions in Algeria and in the Congo region to the culture of this plant. But we have a not inferior interest in the United States, as the ramie will grow luxuriantly in Colorado, Arizona, and Southern California, and may yet prove one of our most important crops. Several experiments have been tried in California, but abandoned on account of the difficulty and cost of decortication.

A HAUL OF MONEY.

A Native Thief Makes a Haul—Prompt Detection and Conviction.

A native couple named Pikakian and Lepeka left their house on Beretania street on Tuesday afternoon and did not return until about 9 o'clock in the evening. They left a bag containing \$74 50—\$54 50 in silver, two \$5 gold pieces and a \$10 bill—in a trunk. On returning at night the money was gone. Some of the neighbors had seen a native named Hoopii prowling about the house during the couple's absence. The same man displayed his booty rather freely during the evening, in one case offering a native woman the gold, which she rejected,